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7-1-2023

## Landings, vol. 31, no. 7

Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance

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Marianne LaCroix

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# LANDINGS

News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

July 2023 | Vol. 31, No. 7

## MLA EARNS HISTORIC WIN FOR MAINE'S LOBSTER INDUSTRY

By MLA staff

It has been an exhausting, expensive fight yet in the end, the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) prevailed. On June 16, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled 3-0 in favor of the MLA in its legal appeal of a lower court's decision favoring the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The victory caps a lengthy battle between the MLA and the federal agency over NMFS's 2021 Biological Opinion and 10-year right whale conservation plan.

As a result of MLA's extraordinary court victory, Maine lobstermen will continue to fish under the current whale rules through 2028. During this time, Judge Boasberg will require NMFS to go back to the drawing board to develop and implement a new Whale Rule and Biological Opinion which can no longer use worst-case scenarios and pessimistic assumptions as the basis for its whale conservation regulations. The Biological Opinion, along with its 98% risk reduction, is no longer valid.

"When the MLA made the decision to sue the federal government, we knew it wouldn't be easy, but we refused to go down without a fight," said MLA policy director Patrice McCarron. "The decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals is an overwhelming victory for lobstering families and the communities that rely on this industry, and it reaffirms

what the MLA has been saying all along — the federal government does not have a blank check to use 'worst case scenarios' and disregard actual data in its regulation of the Maine lobster fishery."



CJ Jones is a 10-year-old lobsterman who fishes out of Stonington. CJ goes fishing every chance he gets with his father and stepfather. His future looks a little brighter due to the success of the MLA's appeal. Photo by A. Oliver.

In September 2021, the MLA sued NMFS, contending that its new Biological Opinion contained major scientific deficiencies that led to an overly aggressive target of a 98% reduction in risk posed by the lobster fishery. NMFS's Biological Opinion did not address the disproportionate harm to right whales occurring in Canada, vessel strikes in U.S. waters, or natural mortality of right whales. The MLA argued that NMFS failed to rely on the best scientific information and account for the positive impact of conservation measures already adopted by the Maine lobster fishery, then designed a plan aimed at curing unrealistic "worst-case scenarios."

In September 2022, Judge Boasberg ruled against the MLA in an opinion that deferred to NMFS on all counts without disputing the validity of the MLA's concerns. As a result of a separate ruling by Judge Boasberg in the case filed by environmental groups, NMFS sped up implementation of its 10-year right whale conservation plan. The day after Judge Boasberg's ruling, NMFS launched its rulemaking process to require the lobster fishery and every other fixed gear fishery from Maine to Florida to reduce estimated risk to

Continued on page 4

*Congratulations*

Maine Lobstermen's Association on your win in the U.S. Court of Appeals. This is a victory for your association, all of the hard-working lobstermen and women, and Maine's tourism industry!



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## DEBATE OVER PROPOSED SPEED RULE HEATS UP

By Kirk Moore, National Fisherman. Reprinted with permission

With only around 340 North Atlantic right whales surviving in one of the world's most endangered species, preventing their deaths in ship strikes is critical, conservationists say.

"Even one human-caused mortality puts the species at risk of extinction," whale researcher Jessica Redfern of the New England Aquarium warned, as a Congressional subcommittee heard testimony [in June] on new proposed vessel speed limits to protect the whales.

A rule proposal by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration could extend 10-knot speed limits in areas when right whales are present, and expand the limits to cover vessels between 35 and 65 feet in length. Aimed at protecting the whales, the proposal is seen as a mortal threat by some U.S. maritime groups, from recreational boat builders to charter fishing captains and port pilots.

Allowing NOAA to declare 10-knot speed zones would be "the greatest restriction to our nation's cherished waterways" from Massachusetts to central Florida, said Fred Hugelmeier, president and CEO of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. Hugelmeier was one among a panelist of experts invited to the House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.

NOAA's proposed "strike reduction rule" is aimed at reducing maritime roadkill. "What makes right whales so vulnerable is they spend so much time at or near the surface," explained Janice Coit,

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# COASTAL OUTLOOK *Thoughts from MLCA President Amber-Jean Nickel*

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Just a few weeks ago it felt like we were still in the early days of spring and now, suddenly, it is the height of summer. The days are long, the air is warm and the buzz along the coast is a combination of seasonal visitors, busy lobstermen and Maine residents taking full advantage of these summer days.

Part of that buzz is the welcome news that the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) prevailed in its lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and its deeply flawed 2021 Biological Opinion. That Opinion called for draconian regulations to protect endangered right whales that would have decimated the state's lobster fishery while doing little to actually save the whales.

On June 16 the three-judge panel of the U.S. Appeals Court of Washington, D.C. unanimously overturned the lower court's earlier ruling in favor of NMFS, stating "We reverse the district court's grant of summary judgment to the Service and direct the court to enter summary judgment for the lobstermen on count one of their complaint. Because the Service has raised no independent defense to count four of the complaint, we direct the district court to enter summary judgment for the lobstermen on count four. We further direct the district court to vacate the biological opinion as applied to the lobster and Jonah crab fisheries and to remand the phase one rule to the Service."

Sighs of relief were heard throughout the coast. The ruling means that existing whale rules, requiring breaking line and weak points in lobster gear and a seasonal closure offshore during the winter, remain in place. NMFS, however, must redo both the 2021 Biological Opinion and the 2022 Final Whale Rule without using worst-case scenarios or pessimistic assumptions drawn from a biased interpretation of flawed data.

In related news, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s proposed a rule that would require recreational and commercial vessels less than 65 feet in length to slow down in right whale migration areas (largely the entire East Coast). The proposed rule has drawn vehement opposition from charter boat companies and others, protesting that it would cause grievous economic harm to their interests. We reprint with permission an article from National Fisherman on the controversy.

Knowing how Maine's lobster stocks are faring at a time when the Gulf of Maine is changing quickly grows in importance each year. The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) staff conduct a variety of research programs each

year to gather data on lobster throughout its life cycle. The department's Sea Sampling program puts DMR staff aboard lobster boats in each lobster zone three times each month in the summer to record every bit of information from each trap hauled on a given day. The new coordinator of the Program, Kristyn Kleman, offers her perspective on sea sampling and what it takes to do the job.

We also hear this month from Marianne LaCroix, Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) executive director. The MLMC has begun a new public relations campaign called "Maine Characters." The Collaborative created biographies and photographs of people who represent different aspects of the Maine lobster industry, from fishermen and processors to trap builders and restaurateurs. Each

person's profile highlights different aspects of the industry, such as sustainability, multi-generational participation, and independence. "It is important for customers to know that this is a heritage fishery comprised of individuals and small businesses that support coastal communities and a unique way of life," LaCroix writes.

On a lighter note, what's in a name? Whether male or female, those who fish for lobster uniformly refer to themselves as lobstermen. The use of the term, regardless of gender, has raised a few eyebrows among the general public. But as Heather Strout-Thompson of Harrington, a lobsterman for 38 years, said, "My dad was a lobsterman. My grandfather was a lobsterman. That's what I am, too."

We also hear from some young lobstermen starting out in the fishery. Mason Vintinner, 15, of Durham fishes in Casco Bay with his father. The young man has already accumulated his 1,000 hours of sea time under the state's apprenticeship program and is waiting to get his permanent license. The importance of lobstering comes through clearly in a poem he wrote for a Freeport High School class this past spring, which we publish in this month's issue.

Finally, Sam Murfitt, 70, spent his career as a commercial photographer focused on New England's fishing industry. On August 6, the Penobscot Marine Museum will open a new exhibit of his photographs, "Sam Murfitt and Maine's Working Waterfronts." The eloquent photos reflect 18 years of capturing the people and the fishing communities of the Maine coast, some of which we include in *Landings*.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Landings* and look forward to your thoughts on future issues.



*Isaac Beal by Sam Murfitt.*

*Amber-Jean*

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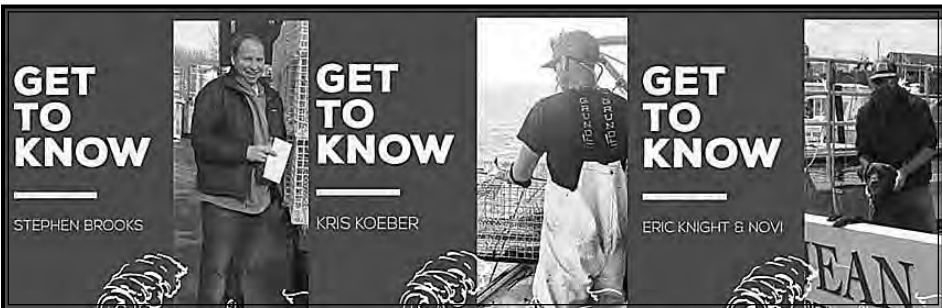


## GUEST COLUMN: *Showcasing the faces, stories of the lobster fishery*

*By Marianne LaCroix, MLMC executive director*

This year, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) is celebrating the people behind the Maine lobster fishery. We want everyone to know about the hardworking, passionate, dedicated people that bring lobster from the sea to diners' tables worldwide. It is important for customers to know that this is a heritage fishery comprised of individuals and small businesses that support coastal communities and a unique way of life.

The MLMC produced biographies and photographs of people who represent different aspects of the Maine lobster industry, from fishermen to processors to trap builders to restaurateurs and more. Each person's profile helps to highlight aspects that make the industry unique, including sustainability, multi-generational participation, independence, and integrity.



We developed a dedicated web page featuring the profiles and photos and will drive viewers to the web page with a comprehensive digital advertising campaign targeting key audiences. We also are conducting a robust social media campaign including photos, compelling quotes and brief biographical information. In addition to posting on our own social media channels, we will push the content out through paid advertising.

Complementing the "Maine Characters" digital campaign, MLMC is running a "Celebrate the Maine Lobster Roll" promotion in partnership with select local restaurants and online shippers. The goal of the promotion is to take advantage of the tourist audience in Maine and drive additional views of the "Maine Characters" profiles while giving both restaurants and consumers a chance to support the Maine lobster fishery.

Participating restaurants will have a selection of materials featuring "Maine Characters," including place-mats, sandwich flags, wax paper wrappers and post-cards, to use when serving lobster rolls during the promotional period. The MLMC also created digital assets to drive additional views.

As part of the promotion, each participating restaurant will make a donation to the Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance to further its efforts to educate the public about Maine's lobstering heritage, support scientific research, and provide charity to distressed fishing families.

While the MLMC will focus on highlighting people through the "Maine Characters" campaign this year, we are continuing to keep Maine lobster top of mind among consumers and wholesale customers as well.

In addition to our ongoing public relations outreach and social media efforts, we have several programs designed to inspire home cooks to eat more Maine lobster. Our social media team is taking advantage of a trend in air fryer cooking by working with food influencers to develop and post lobster recipes that can be cooked in the air fryer. The promotion will also highlight ways to elevate pre-made lobster dishes available from Maine companies. MLMC is collaborating with TikTok star and lobsterman Jacob Knowles to bring his messages of sustainability to a wider food audience by partnering with a popular food influencer to create content shared across both accounts.

The MLMC is continuing to work with reporters throughout the country to promote the Maine lobster story and to ensure that journalists speak to media-trained industry members who are best equipped to provide a compelling story about Maine lobster. We also have two controlled articles coming out: a pre-written release designed to inspire home cooks that will go to media outlets around the country, and an article in *USA Today* emphasizing the sustainability of the fishery.

To learn more about the MLMC's "Maine Characters," visit <https://lobsterfrom-maine.com/meet-the-maine-characters>.



*Marianne LaCroix is the executive director of the MLMC.*

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Appeal continued from page 1

right whales by 90% or the federal lobster fishery could be shut down.

The MLA board of directors voted to immediately appeal the decision and hired renowned appellate attorney, Paul Clement, to do so. The Appeals court promptly granted an expedited appeal schedule which moved the case before the panel of three judges this spring.

In its ruling, the Appeals Court wrote: “In this case, we decide whether, in a biological opinion, the Service must, or even may, when faced with uncertainty, give the “benefit of the doubt” to an endangered species by relying upon worst-case scenarios or pessimistic assumptions. We hold it may not.” The court continued, “The ESA [Endangered Species Act] and the implementing regulations call for an empirical judgment about what is “likely.” The Service’s role as an expert is undetermined, not furthered, when it distorts that scientific judgment by indulging in worst-case scenarios and pessimistic assumptions to benefit a favored side.”

As a result of this decision, NMFS’s Biological Opinion is no longer in effect. NMFS will have to prepare a new Biological Opinion that complies with the ESA and the court’s opinion. The lobster fishery can continue to operate because the federal Omnibus legislation signed into law in December 2022 deemed the fishery to be in compliance with the ESA and Marine Mammal Protection Act through 2028. The May 2022 Final Rule is also sent back to NMFS to be revised but remains in effect in the meantime.

“Today’s decision vindicates what the Maine lobster fishery, and the countless communities that rely on it, knew all along — that their practices support the conservation of the gulf ecosystem for generations to come,” Governor Janet Mills and the state’s Congressional delegation stated in response to the ruling. They note that the court acknowledged that NOAA’s flawed use of the data has resulted in unfairly targeting Maine’s fishery.

“Maine lobstermen were adamant that they were not killing right whales so MLA dug into the data to understand why NMFS was demanding such extreme action. The data are clear — there has never been a documented right whale death in Maine lobster gear,” explained McCarron. “Everyone in the system dismissed our concerns. But we knew NMFS was wrong and we knew we had to sue.”

“This victory belongs to Maine lobstermen and community supporters. No one believed we could take on the federal government and deep pocketed environmental groups. MLA’s grassroots effort has resulted in relief from both Congress and the courts. It is truly incredible,” McCarron said.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”* Margaret Mead

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

**Spring 2017** – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) publishes new model in May which determines that the right whale population has been in decline since 2010; declares an Unusual Mortality Event (UME) for right whales in June.

**October 2017** – NMFS starts Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation to determine if the lobster fishery jeopardizes the recovery of the right whale population. A jeopardy finding could close the lobster fishery.

**January 2018** – Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife and Humane Society of the United States file a lawsuit against NMFS in Washington, D.C. District Court accusing it of violating the ESA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The complaint seeks an emergency injunction to force NMFS to replace its 2014 Biological Opinion. Conservation Law Foundation and Earth Justice file a similar complaint. The cases are consolidated into one lawsuit in March. Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) and Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association (MaLA) granted intervenor status in May.

**April 2020** – D.C. District Court judge James Boasberg rules in agreement with the environmental groups in a summary judgment, finding that NMFS violated the ESA. In August, the Judge orders NMFS to issue a new Biological Opinion for North American lobster and nine other groups of species by May 31, 2021.

**August 2020** – The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) suspends its certification of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery after seven years.

**May 2021** – NMFS issues a new Biological Opinion for the lobster fishery that gives the industry 10 years to reduce entanglement risk to right whales by 98%.

**September 2021** – The MLA files a lawsuit in Washington D.C. District Court challenging NMFS’s Biological Opinion, claiming it acted arbitrarily and failed to use the best scientific information. MLA is joined by the state of Maine and Maine Lobstering Union as intervenors.

NMFS establishes final whale rules, to be implemented by May 2022, that include requiring more traps on each buoy line, 1,700 lb. weak links in remaining buoy lines, closing off large fishing areas, and requiring expanded gear markings which differentiate gear fished in state versus federal waters.

**October 2021** – MSC renews the certification status of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery, a response to NMFS issuing the new Biological Opinion.

**June 2022** – A third party auditor determines that the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery meets the requirements of a sustainable fishery and recommends recertification with MSC. The certification is due to expire in January 2023.

**July 2022** – Judge Boasberg issues ruling in favor of conservation groups that NMFS still hasn’t done enough to satisfy the ESA or MMPA with its Biological Opinion issued in May 2021 or its final rule issued in September 2021.

**September 2022** – Judge Boasberg rules against the MLA in an opinion that deferred to NMFS on all counts without disputing the validity of the MLA’s concerns. The Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) moves North American lobster from its yellow “good alternative” rating to its red “avoid” listing.

**October 2022** – MLA hires renowned appellate attorney, Paul Clement, to represent it in its appeal.

**November 2022** – MSC drops the lobster fishery’s certification yet again, citing Boasberg’s July 2022 decision. Judge Boasberg requires NMFS to publish a new whale rule to further reduce risk from NE lobster fisheries by December 2024.

**December 2022** – Congress includes provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act that require NMFS to wait until December 31, 2028, before implementing and enforcing new lobster fishing restrictions and states that the fishery is in compliance with the ESA and MMPA during that time.


**February 2023** – MLA and NMFS make their arguments before the US Court of Appeals.

**March 2023** – MLA sues Monterey Bay Aquarium for defamation.

**June 2023** – Court of Appeals D.C. Circuit renders its opinion, siding with MLA, and repealing Judge Boasberg’s ruling. The Appeals Court vacates the Biological Opinion and Whale Rule and orders Judge Boasberg to require NMFS to develop a new Whale Rule and Biological Opinion without using worst-case scenarios and pessimistic assumptions. It keeps the current rules in place for the lobster fishery until December 31, 2028.

### What does this mean for Maine lobstermen?

- Maine lobstermen must continue to fish under the current whale rules. The most recent trawling up, weak points, gear marking and LMA 1 Restricted Area remain in place.
- NMFS will be ordered by the Court to develop and implement a new Biological Opinion and Final Whale Rule by the end of 2028.
- NMFS can no longer skew the science against the Maine lobster fishery by using worst-case scenarios and pessimistic assumptions as the basis for its whale conservation regulations.



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# SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN ENTHUSIASM SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

*By Kevin Kelley, MLA Director of Advancement*

Despite downpours that soaked everyone and everything, the June 17 community fundraiser at the South Bristol Fisherman's Co-Op was a huge success.

The event featured a lobster bake, live music, and a raffle and silent auction overflowing with items donated by local businesses and craftspeople. It was spearheaded by Co-Op director, Laura Hughes with help from local fishing families. Due to the soaking rain, the raffle and auction had to be moved under a series of tents, which prevented all of the donated items from even being displayed (so Laura says she's going to have to figure out how to sell the rest of the stuff!).

Generosity was on full display, as were many laughs and smiles even as the large crowd got wetter and wetter! The Co-Op overlooks The Gut, which is filled with lobster boats, buoys, and traps and is the quintessential working harbor and community that the MLA's #SaveMaineLobstermen campaign was organized to protect for future generations.

Laura is still counting all the donations so no word yet on how much the event raised but we're already looking forward to a future event — this time, with a



*Laura Hughes and some wet but eager volunteers drawing raffle tickets at the South Bristol fundraiser. MLA photo.*



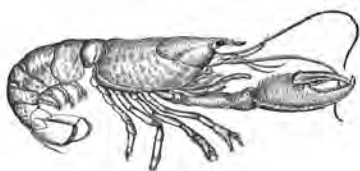
*Hundreds of folks visited the MLA information table at Claw Down 2023 on June 15 in Boothbay Harbor. The event features competing chefs who use Maine lobster as the main ingredient. MLA was invited to sell #SaveMaineLobstermen gear and raised nearly \$2,000. MLA photo.*

little sun! Thank you to Laura, MLA board member Jamien Hallowell, and everyone who worked to ensure this event's success.

Also in June, Kennebunk businessman, Paul Humphrey, presented a check to MLA board member and Kennebunk lobsterman, Chris Welch. Humphrey owns the Mornings in Paris coffee shops in Kennebunk and Ogunquit and has been selling a specially created #SaveMaineLobstermen blend coffee since last fall. \$4 from every pound sold was donated to the MLA's legal defense fund and Welch accepted a check for \$2,024.

"The lobstering industry is an integral part of our community and essential to supporting thousands of lobster fishing families across the state," said Humphrey. "Equally important is what the industry does and has done for a long time to bring people to Maine. What would Maine be without locally harvested lobsters? This is why we felt compelled to do what we can to raise awareness for the challenges the industry is facing."

*Continued on page 21*



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## STEAMING AHEAD BY MLA PRESIDENT KRISTAN PORTER

The MLA won its appeal in its lawsuit against NMFS! This is a massive and historic victory for all of us and I cannot express to you how much hard work it has taken to get to this point. People, businesses, towns, even school kids have all provided money to help us take on NMFS, hire the best possible lawyers and experts available, and win an incredibly tough legal battle.

The work is far from over, though. Extreme environmental groups and the federal government will not just roll over and go away while the right whale population remains so low. Don't get me wrong, we have earned an enormous victory for Maine lobstermen and our communities, but we still will get a new Biological Opinion and new whale rules after 2028. We need to make sure they are done correctly.

The offshore wind issue is really heating up in the Gulf of Maine as well. Everything is up for debate, from where the turbines can be placed and where the cables will lie to how these monstrosities will affect the ocean environment. I can assure you that the MLA remains on the front lines of the offshore wind discussions — advocating against offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine — to protect our fishing communities and way of life.

These are the things that the MLA does and has done since 1954. If you are a member of the MLA, I want to sincerely thank you for your support.

If you aren't, I simply want to ask, why?

Lots of people have congratulated me and even thanked me after the appeal verdict. And I tell them I didn't do it, the MLA did it. It's what happens when a bunch of ornery lobstermen work together! When you have a federal agen-

cy way overreaching and threatening to put us all out of business, even the cheapest guy on the water figures out he needs to do something.

I understand that lobstermen are a strong-willed bunch and tend to hold grudges, but let's get real — something an MLA board member said ten years ago or a position MLA had in 1985 shouldn't keep you from helping us help you.

The MLA's board of directors is a great representation of the coast, from Downeast to southern Maine, from young guys to old. We don't always agree on everything, but we always figure out a way to do what is right for today's lobstermen and the future of the fishery. The whole idea of an association is to have strength in numbers and speak as one powerful voice.

Winning our appeal is a huge victory which should be celebrated. But this is just one battle in a war that wages on. There are many more battles to come and the MLA is ready to fight in them. We absolutely couldn't have made it through this legal fight without our members and Legal Defense Fund supporters.

If you are breathing a sigh of relief that we won this court case, the best way you can show your appreciation for the work the MLA has done is to become a member today.



*We did it. We won because of all of us working together to fight a great wrong. MLA Legal Team member Ryan Steen proudly wearing his SaveMaineLobstermen sweatshirt during a visit to Maine. MLA photo.*

The MLA must be able to fight another day if we are to win the war.

Thank you.

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## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### MLA EARNS HISTORIC VICTORY FOR MAINE'S LOBSTER INDUSTRY!

The lobster industry received remarkable news on June 16 that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled overwhelmingly in favor of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) in its appeal of a lower court ruling. This decision is a tremendous victory for lobstering families and the communities that rely on this industry, and it reaffirms what the MLA has said all along — the federal government does not have a blank check to use “worst case scenarios” and disregard actual data in its regulation of the Maine lobster fishery.

What does the decision mean for the lobster industry? For the near-term, the current whale rules remain in place, including 1,700 pound weak points, trawling up, gear marking and the LMA 1 Restricted Area. But the ruling overturns Judge Boasberg's earlier decision and requires that his court order National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to go back and redo both the Biological Opinion and the 2022 Final Whale Rule without using worst-case scenarios or pessimistic assumption.

The decision, along with the law passed by Congress in December 2022, gives NMFS until the end of 2028 to develop and implement a new whale protection plan and Biological Opinion.

A separate lawsuit filed by the MLA, along with other industry leaders, against the Monterey Bay Aquarium continues to move forward. This lawsuit was filed earlier this year and challenges the Aquarium for making false and defamatory statements about Maine lobster fishing practices and for misleading consumers and commercial lobster buyers about the integrity of the Maine lobster harvest. According to the MLA legal team, the June 16 Appeals Court decision “only amplifies the merits of our defamation case... that the red listing was based on faulty science.” We'll keep you updated as this moves forward.

MLA sincerely thanks all of you who have supported us when so many doubted that we could do this. We simply would not be able to defend this fishery without your support!

### MLA DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

The MLA Board of Directors met on June 7 at Darbys. MLA COO Amber-Jean Nickel provided several updates on MLA's internal operations and staffing. The board discussed these issues in executive session.

MLA Policy Director Patrice McCarron provided updates on pending lawsuits and research projects. The MLA anxiously awaits the decision from the Appeals Court to overturn the lower court ruling [*Update: the court ruled in favor on MLA on June 16*]. MLA will file its next round of briefs in the case against Monterey Bay Aquarium in late July. The environmentalists' case against NMFS remains on hold.

The MLA continues to explore new research opportunities to further the interests of Maine's lobster industry. The MLA will not be participating in this round of collaborative research funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) because this funding cycle is dedicated to furthering the development of ropeless fishing. The MLA opposes ropeless fishing as a risk reduction tool for Maine's lobster fishery.

The MLA continues its partnership with RODA and the University of Maine to establish a database of lobster fishing effort that is owned by lobstermen. Lobstermen may contribute data collected with Time Zero or Olex to the Fisheries Knowledge Trust, which is governed by the fishing industry. The project will determine if data from these two systems can be combined. Lobstermen will control what data products are made available and how they are used.

MLA remains very active on offshore wind issues. At the Legislature, MLA opposed LD 1895 to procure offshore wind and supported LD 1884 to ban offshore wind in federal waters off the coast of Maine. The MLA supported the delegation in sending a letter to BOEM urging the agency not to issue offshore wind leases in LMA 1 and is supporting Rep. Golden's effort to introduce a bill to ban offshore wind development in LMA 1 [*Update: Rep Golden introduced the bill on June 22*]. MLA staff and Board members attended the BOEM Task Force meeting in Bangor; Jack Merrill and Willis Spear provided excellent public comment. MLA will submit comments to BOEM on its request for information to identify areas appropriate for offshore wind leasing in the Gulf of Maine. The MLA Board voted that MLA's comments should be clear that MLA does not want offshore wind anywhere in the Gulf of Maine [*Update: MLA submitted comments on June 12*].

The MLA has lots of summer events planned to raise awareness about the importance of the MLA and to raise money for our *SaveMaineLobstermen* campaign. Check the MLA events calendar for the full list of events. In May, MLA participated in Fishing Partnership Support Services free safety trainings in Boothbay Harbor and Jonesport.

### MAINE LEGISLATURE

#### What Passed

**Changes to Menhaden License** – LD 1444, sponsored by Rep. Faulkinham, relaxes eligibility requirements for commercial menhaden licenses by adding 2022 as a qualifying year. A license holder is now eligible if they held a commercial menhaden license in two of the following four years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 but cannot use 2022 to qualify for a second license. To be eligible, proof of landing 25,000 lbs in any year 2019-2022 must have been submitted to the DMR no later than January 1, 2023. DMR estimates that the amendment to the licensing criteria will add 28 new commercial licenses to the fishery.

**Investment in Innovative Gear Testing** – LD 1552, sponsored by Sen. Vitelli, establishes the Lobster Innovation Fund to provide stipends to Maine commercial lobstermen who participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies through a one-time appropriation in each year of the biennium to the fund (2023/2024 and 2024/2025). The Fund may also accept donations. This is pending inclusion in the state budget.

**Nonprofits May Hold Working Waterfront Covenants** – LD 574, sponsored by Rep. Rielly, will allow nonprofit organizations that work to retain or protect coastal community values, culture or heritage, coastal habitat or real property that provides coastal water access to hold working waterfront covenants.

**Technical Changes to Marine Resource Laws** – LD 16, a DMR bill, amends several definitions, clarifies apprentice requirements for tribes, clarifies halibut licensing requirements, and updates the administrative suspension process for certain circumstances.

#### Passed but Not Signed into Law

**Maine Offshore Wind Procurement** – LD 1895, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence, sets a goal to procure 3,000 MW Offshore Wind by 2040 (167 turbines at 18MW). The bill was approved by the House and Senate mostly along party lines with Republicans opposing the bill and Democrats supporting. Senate Republicans voted 11 opposed, 1 in favor; House Republicans voted 68 opposed, 2 in favor. Senate Democrats voted 0 opposed, 22 in favor; House Republicans voted 5 opposed, 74 in favor. The very complicated bill sets offshore wind procurement goals, establishes guidelines on procurement of offshore wind resources, and incentivizes projects that support the recommendations of Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap, using union labor and siting wind outside of Lobster Management Area 1. As of June 28, the Governor indicated concern with the labor provisions of this bill and it has not been signed into law.

NOTE: The Governor's Office sponsored LD 1847 to modify the visual standards for offshore wind port development. Governor Mills vetoed this bill on June 27 due an amendment made on the Senate floor to require project labor agreements. The Governor stated that she recognizes the value of project labor agreements but that 90% of workers in Maine's construction industry are not unionized.

#### Bills Carried Over

**Lobster Legal Defense Fund** – LD 710, sponsored by Rep Faulkingham, seeks continue the reimbursement of MLA and MLU for legal costs involving the federal whale regulations redirecting 20% of Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative funds to the LDF until 2030.

**Business Equipment Tax Benefits** – LD 191, sponsored by Sen Stewart, seeks to make businesses that restrict or prevent the sale of any product that is legally produced, harvested or grown in the State based on 3rd-party certifications, bans, or boycotts from eligibility from th business equipment tax exemption and reimbursement.

**Protect Marine Resources** – LD 370, sponsored by Sen Reny, is a concept draft that proposes to protect marine resources in the State.

#### Bills That Failed

The following bills failed in the Maine Legislature:

*LD 811 An Act to Create a Restricted Senior Lobster and Crab Fishing License.*

*LD 563 An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast.*

*LD 742 An Act to Divest State Pensions from Companies Boycotting Maine Lobster.*

*LD 1618 An Act to Create the Lobster Industry Working Group.*

*LD 1884 An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development.*

### SUPPORT GROWING TO SITE POTENTIAL OFFSHORE WIND OUTSIDE LMA 1

MLA has advocated tirelessly in opposition to offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. MLA has pushed hard to ensure that at a minimum, offshore wind must be sited outside of Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) and MLA's

*Continued on page 8*



## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MLA update continued from page 7

wind must be sited outside of Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) and MLA's advocacy is paying off.

The MLA wrote to BOEM, "The advice from Maine lobstermen to BOEM is simple: large floating industrial wind farms should not be sited in the Gulf of Maine."

The MLA continued, "Maine's lobster industry remains united in its opposition to offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.... Lobstermen don't need an Environmental Impact Statement to know that the 26 GW of offshore wind envisioned by the states of Massachusetts and Maine — more than 1440 turbines — built in a fragile ocean ecosystem is a recipe for disaster. Lobstermen do not trust that the government will prevent irreparable harm to the environment and our fishing heritage so they have no desire to find ways 'co-exist' with massive wind farms built by profit seeking developers.... If BOEM chooses to move forward with identifying draft Wind Energy Areas (WEA) in the Gulf of Maine, BOEM must exclude Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1)."

On June 12, Maine's delegation and Governor Mills wrote a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). They wrote, "Our fishing community feels that their voices are not being heard. A straightforward way for BOEM to show it is committed to minimizing impacts to fisheries would be to adopt the fishing community's primary request: remove LMA 1 from consideration." The letter raises concern that the federal government has closed large areas of the ocean to lobster fishing to protect right whales, including the nearly 1,000 square mile LMA Restricted Area. They wrote, "If an area is closed to fishing, how could this area still be considered for offshore wind development?" The MLA is grateful for this extraordinary show of support from Maine's political leaders.

On June 22, Congressman Golden introduced the Northeast Fisheries Heritage Protection Act which would prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) and initiate a federal study on the environmental review processes of any relevant federal agencies for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine. "BOEM's decision not to remove one of the most lucrative and productive fishing grounds in the region from consideration for commercial offshore wind projects is just the latest in a series of unrelenting challenges to Maine fishermen," said Rep. Golden. "Prohibiting commercial wind development in LMA 1 protects Maine lobstermen's way of life and of making a living for their families and their communities, just as they have for generations."

"The MLA commends Congressman Golden for introducing legislation to protect Maine's lobster fishery from being overrun by massive, offshore wind farms. The legislation would ensure that any impacts of offshore wind are understood before allowing the industrialization of the fragile and productive Gulf of Maine ecosystem, putting at risk its wildlife, habitat, commercial and recreational fisheries, and a way of life that has sustained thousands of Maine families for more than a century," said Patrice McCarron, Policy Director, Maine Lobstermen's Association

### GAO TO INVESTIGATE IMPACTS OF OFFSHORE WIND

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has agreed to investigate the effects of offshore wind development and the sufficiency of the current environmental review process. The request for an investigation was initiated by four Republican Congressmen, Reps Van Drew and Smith of New Jersey, Rep Westerman of Arizona and Rep Harris of Maryland.

The Congressmen have called for a pause on offshore wind development until the GAO completes its investigation. "The offshore wind industrialization approval process has left unaddressed and unanswered numerous serious questions concerning the potentially harmful environmental impact on whales, marine life, and the ecosystems that currently allow all sea creatures great and small to thrive," stated Congressman Smith. "With so much at stake and out of an abundance of caution and concern, these offshore wind projects must be at a minimum paused until the Government Accountability Office concludes its study."

### Olex and TimeZero Users – We need you!

Would you like to be part of a groundbreaking research project where fishermen control their own data?

Lobstermen who use Olex or TimeZero aboard their vessels are invited to share their data. Data are held by the Fisheries Knowledge Trust which is governed by the fishing industry.

This project will determine if data from these two systems can be combined to describe where and when lobstermen fish. Lobstermen will control what data products are made available and how they are used. FMI, contact Patrice McCarron at [patrice@mainelobstermen.org](mailto:patrice@mainelobstermen.org).

*A letter from Jack Merrill, MLA member since 1976, current MLA board member and Little Cranberry Isles lobsterman*

Yes!

On June 16th, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (three judges) ruled unanimously in favor of the MLA, chastising the National Marine Fisheries Service for leaning on biased, distorted, and "worst case" assumptions in its Biological Opinion.

Winning the court case was no accident. It vindicated our fishery, which has been unnecessarily maligned by the government, certain corporate environmental groups, and individuals in the press. Lobstermen and other associated businesses are grateful for a ruling which will allow us to continue our stewardship for at least a few more years without fear of the 98% risk reduction that was threatened.

While MLA's Board of Directors (21 fishermen from throughout the coast) gave 100% support for the lawsuit and have been busy trying to raise funds to make it possible, no one deserves more credit than Patrice McCarron.

No fisherman had the time or research skills to dig into the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, much less to dissect NOAA's faulty Biological Opinion. No one could have done it more thoroughly or better.

No doubt Patrice will defer credit to those on MLA's staff and a great legal team, but every one of them will tell you this couldn't have happened without her persistence, dedication, and damned ol' Yankee smarts.

Patrice went way beyond what any organization could ask. When at times it must have seemed hopeless and unrewarding, she spent hours to fight for the fishery's future.

Kudos to Patrice. Every fishing family in Maine owes you a celebratory salute. Thanks, Patrice!

Jack Merrill  
Isleford

### Many thanks to these fine businesses, the MLA's Keeper members!

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- Harvester Family\* \$350
- Junior Harvester (under 18) \$150
- Senior Harvester (over 65) \$150
- Retired Harvester \$75  
*(no longer a captain)*

*\*family memberships are for spouses and children under 23 living at home*

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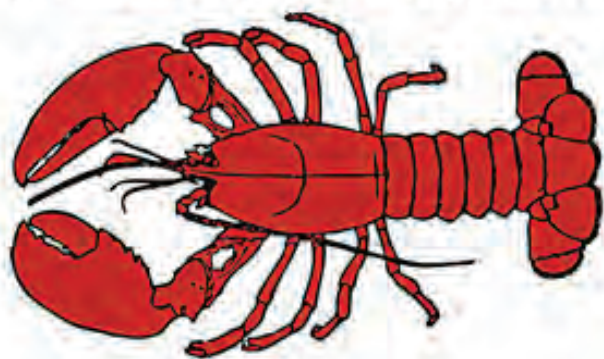
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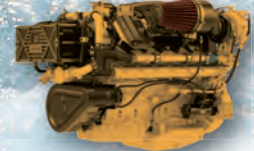
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<b>Front Street Shipyard</b> Belfast, ME	<b>Fairhaven Shipyard &amp; Marina, Inc.</b> Fairhaven, MA	<b>Windward Power Systems</b> Fairhaven, MA	<b>Rhode Island Engine Company, Inc.</b> Narragansett, RI

\*All T4 Exempt Light Commercial Ratings, require qualifications review and approval by CAT Factory.  
 \*Contact Nick Fawle or Your Authorized Marine Dealer for Tier 4 exemption qualification details.

For Marine Engine Sales, contact Nick Fawle, our new Marine Market Manager.

**Nick Fawle at 603-484-5248**

[Nick\\_Fawle@miltoncat.com](mailto:Nick_Fawle@miltoncat.com)



[miltoncat.com](http://miltoncat.com)

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_


Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Everyone who donates at least \$1,000 in 2023 will receive an EXCLUSIVE #SaveMaineLobstermen sweatshirt.

**Your support keeps us fighting  
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MLA Legal Defense Fund: 2 Storer St, Suite 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043  
[www.savemainelobstermen.org](http://www.savemainelobstermen.org) 207-967-4555





# Thank you to our 2023 Donors.

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Josh Beal  
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Robert Docill  
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Kyle Koerber  
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Barbara Edson  
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Zachary Teal  
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Sandra Gates  
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Harry Nelson  
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Bonnie Rogers  
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Richard & Aileen Wenzel  
Travis Widdecomb  
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### Donations listed were received by 6/21/23.

#### Gifts in Memoriam

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*Tim Dyer*  
Larry Coombs

*The Joy Family*  
Bruce Erwin Johnson

*Those that go down to the sea in their ships*  
Mark Minton

To make YOUR donation, visit us online or mail your check made out to "MLA LDF"

MLA Legal Defense Fund: 2 Storer St, Suite 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043 [www.savemainelobstermen.org](http://www.savemainelobstermen.org) 207-967-4555

# MLA MEMBER DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

## Smithwick & Mariners Insurance

Falmouth, ME -- Discounted vessel insurance plus 5% discount with proof of CG approved Drill Conductor course w/in the last 5 years. Wooden boat, Builders coverage, no lay up period, discounted electronics deductible, and automatic coverage of researchers and more! Call Scott Smithwick 207-370-1883

## Accounting

### RG Tax Accounting & Resolution

Brunswick, ME -- Free initial consultation and review of previous tax returns. 207-607-7118 www.rgtaxresolution.com

## Aquaculture:Prepared Foods

### Atlantic Sea Farms

25% off all online orders for MLA members. See your discount directory for the code or call 207-807-9185 www.atlanticseafarms.com

## Automotive

### Weirs Buick - GMC

Arundel ME -- Purchase a new GMC and get a free Bullet Liner. Must show MLA card 877-861-0070 www.weirsgmc.com

## Bait

### Nor'east Bait LLC

York, ME -- \$1 off per bucket (must show current MLA card). 207-752-6775 noreastbait@gmail.com

## Boat Builders/Repairs

### SW Boatworks

Lamonia, ME -- \$1000 discount for hull or top. on a 38' CB or 44' CB. 207-667-7427 www.swboatworks.com

## Electronic Equipment

### Deckhand Electronic Logbook

Bellingham WA -- Discounts & Specials for MLA members. Call for more info. 888-210-3117

### Durabrite Lights

Garden City, NY -- Free Shipping for MLA members 201-915-0555

## Hydraulics

### Coastal Hydraulics

Seabrook, NH -- 10% discount on all in stock items for MLA members. 603-474-1914

### Hews Company, LLC

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## Vessel Insurance

## Fishing, Marine & Industrial

### Hamilton Marine

Jonesport, Kittery, Portland, Rockland, Searsport, Southwest Harbor, ME -- Discounts available to commercial fishermen.

### North Atlantic Power Products

Exeter NH- 10% discount for all service repair of twin disc transmissions, 15% off any new MGX series 603-418-0470



## Fuel & Electricity

### Midcoast Solar, LLC

New Harbor, ME -- 20% off Community Solar electricity for fishermen, lobstermen, aquaculture businesses, and 18% off Community Solar residential electricity for fishermen, lobstermen, and aquaculturists from the Bristol Community Solar Farm. Subscribers also receive a \$100 local Gift card of their choice, and an invitation to learning tour and celebration party at Pemaquid Beach in the summer of 2022. 207-677-0037

## Gifts

### Maine Camp Outfitters

Sunset, ME -- 10% off all apparel and promotional product orders. 800-560-6090

### Maine Lobstermen's Association

Kennebunk, ME -- 10% off all apparel 207-967-4555

## Hotels

Hampton Inn, Ellsworth – (Ellsworth, ME)

Hampton Inn, Downtown-Waterfront – (Portland, ME)

Hampton Inn, Rockland/Thomaston – (Rockland, ME)

Residence Inn by Marriott - (Scarborough, ME)

*Discount: Special rates for MLA members and Business Supporters. Please contact the MLA for booking information, or mention MLA when booking.*

## Lobster & Seafood

### Cape Porpoise Lobster

Cape Porpoise, ME – 10% off picked lobster meat. 800-967-4268

### Winter Harbor Fishermen's Coop

Winter Harbor, ME – 10% off picked lobster meat. 207-963-5857

## Newspapers

### Commercial Fisheries News

Deer Isle, ME -- Discounted annual subscription rate for \$18.75 with MLA membership noted on check. 800-989-5253

National Fishermen, North Hollywood, CA -- Special annual subscription rate for \$12 for 12 issues. 800-959-5073

## Propellers

### Accu Tech Marine Propeller Inc

Dover, NH -- 10% off all services. 603-617-3626

### New England Propeller Inc

Plymouth, MA -- Discounts on marine propeller, shafting, and related items, sales & repairs. 508-746-8804

### Nautilus Marine Fabrication, Inc.

Trenton, ME --5% Discount on propeller reconditioning. 207-667-1119

## Refrigeration Services

### Applied Refrigeration Services

Windham, ME -- \$250 off new installations. 207-893-0145

## Safety Training & Equipment

### McMillan Offshore Survival Training

Belfast, ME -- 25% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training. 207-338-1603

## Museums & Entertainment

### Penobscot Marine Museum

Searsport, ME -- Free admission for MLA members.

### Cross Insurance Arena Portland, ME --

Special discounts to shows at the Cross Arena in Portland! Use promo code GFRIEND at checkout. Order by phone, online, or in person at the box office. Info at www.maine lobstermen.org

### Seacost Tours of Freeport

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Liz Johndrow  
20 Pomerleau St.  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
ljohndrow@atlanticseafarms.com  
www.atlanticseafarms.com  
*MLA members can get 25% off order*

### AUTOMOTIVE

Weirs GMC Buick  
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Arundel, ME 04046  
877-861-0700  
info@weirsbuickgmc.com  
www.weirsbuickgmc.com  
*Buy a new GMC truck & get a free Bullet Liner*

### BAIT DEALERS

Cape Porpoise Lobster & Bait Co.  
PO Box 7217  
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207-967-0900  
allendaggett@hotmail.com  
www.capeporpoiselobster.com  
*10% off picked lobster meat*

CBS Lobster  
52 Union Wharf  
Portland, ME 04101 207-775-2917  
cbslobster13@yahoo.com

Channel Fish  
370 E. Eagle St.  
East Boston, MA 02128  
617-569-3200  
admin@channelfish.com  
www.channelfish.com

Louisiana Bait Products  
11908 Hwy 87  
Jeanerette, LA 70544  
337-400-4121  
shawn@getbait.com  
www.getbait.com

Lund's Fisheries Inc.  
997 Ocean Dr.  
Cape May, NJ 08204  
207-415-4547  
Htodd@lundsfish.com  
www.lundsfish.com

Nor'east Bait LLC  
Tom Canino  
4 Vacation Dr.  
York ME 03909  
207-752-6775  
noreastbait@gmail.com  
https://noreastbait.com

### BOAT BUILDERS/ BOAT REPAIR

Royal River Boat Repair  
Alan Dugas  
307 Bayview St  
Yarmouth, ME 04096  
207-846-9577  
alan@royalriverboat.com  
www.royalriverboat.com

SW Boatworks  
358 Douglas Highway  
Lamoine, ME 04605  
207-667-7427  
swboatworks@roadrunner.com  
www.swboatworks.com  
*\$1000 discount for hull or top*

### BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

Acadia Benefits  
Connor and Kevin Kennedy  
50 Portland Pier, Ste 301  
Portland ME 04101  
207-615-0560 (Kevin)  
207-822-4385 (Connor)  
kkennedy@acadiabenefits.com  
www.acadiabenefits.com

### ELECTRONICS

Deckhand Electronic Logbook  
Lange Solberg  
11 Bellwether Way  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
888-210-3117  
info@deckhandlogbook.com  
www.deckhandlogbook.com  
*Discounts & specials for MLA members only! Call for more info.*

DuraBrite Inc.  
310 Ellington Ave. E  
Garden City, NY 11530  
201-915-0555  
info@durabritelights.com  
www.durabritelights.com

Navroc Marine Electronics  
Jason Philbrook  
156 New County Rd.  
Rockland, ME 04841  
207-596-7803  
jason@rockbound.net  
www.navroc.com

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Farm Credit East  
Shannon Webber  
615 Minot Ave.  
Auburn, ME 04210  
800-831-4230  
www.farmcrediteast.com

Twin City Financial Group  
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Lewiston, ME 04240 207-777-6266  
mike@twincityfg.com  
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Portland: 774-1772  
Jonesport: 497-2778  
Kittery: 439-1133  
mail@hamiltonmarine.com  
www.hamiltonmarine.com  
*Discounts to commercial fishermen*

Ketcham Supply Co, Inc  
Myron Horzesky  
11 Myrtle St  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508-997-4787  
myron@ketchamsupply.com  
www.ketchamsupply.com

North Atlantic Power Products  
Dan Jones/ Jay Perrotta  
15 Continental Dr  
Exeter, NH 03801  
603-418-0470  
djones@glpower.com  
www.northatlanticpower.com

Tightlines Tackle  
Cody Barter  
60 School Street  
Damariscotta, ME 04543  
207-563-2944  
ttctuna@gmail.com  
www.tightlinestackle.com

### FUEL

Colby & Gale  
Matt Poole  
154 Biscay Rd  
Damariscotta, ME 04543  
207-563-3414  
mpoole@colbyandgale.com  
https://colbyandgale.com

### GIFTS

Maine Camp Outfitters  
Melissa Daniels  
300 Sunset Rd  
Sunset, ME 04683 800-560-6090  
melissa@maine-camp.com  
www.maine-promotional.com  
*10% off apparel & promotional product orders.*

### HYDRAULICS

Coastal Hydraulics Inc.  
28 Route 86  
Seabrook, NH 03874  
603-474-1914  
sales@coastalhyd.com  
www.coastalhyd.com  
*10% discount on all in-stock items for MLA members.*

Hews Company LLC  
190 Rumery St.  
South Portland, ME 04106  
207-767-2136 info@hewscos.com  
*10% off hydraulic components & Craft cables.*

### INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative  
2 Union St.  
Portland, ME 04101  
207-541-9310  
info@lobsterfrommaine.com  
www.lobsterfrommaine.com

### INSURANCE

FA Peabody Insurance  
Josh McGuire  
254 Main St  
Calais, ME 04619 800-759-4478  
www.fapeabody.com

Smithwick & Mariners Insurance  
366 US Route 1  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
207-781-5553/800-370-1883  
scott@smithwick-ins.com  
www.smithwick-ins.com  
*Discounted vessel insurance for MLA members. Additional 5% discount with proof of completed C.G. Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor course within the last 5 years.*

### LOBSTER/SEAFOOD/ WHOLESALE/RETAIL

Atwood Lobster  
Travis Thompson  
286 Island Rd  
Spruce Head, ME 04859  
207-596-6691  
travis.thompson@atwoodlobster.com  
www.atwoodlobster.com  
Cranberry Isles Fishermen's Coop  
PO Box 258  
Islesford, ME 04646 207-244-5438  
cranberrycoop@gmail.com  
http://littlecranberrylobster.com

Delano Seafood  
Kendall Delano  
2090 Atlantic Highway  
Waldoboro, ME 04572  
207-832-7902  
www.delanoseafoodmarket.com

D.C. Air and Seafood  
258 Newman St.  
Winter Harbor, ME 04693  
207-963-7139

The Lobster Co.  
1272 Portland Rd.  
Arundel, ME 04046  
207-985-8824  
lobcoretail@yahoo.com  
www.thelobsterco.com

Luke's Lobster  
84 Industrial Park Rd.  
Saco, ME 04072  
207-332-0304  
ben.mckinney@lukeslobster.com  
www.lukeslobster.com

Maine Lobster Outlet  
Caanan LeTourneau  
360 US Route 1  
York, ME 03909  
207-363-4449  
caanan@mainelobsteroutlet.com  
https://mainelobsteroutlet.com

RDR Lobster & Shellfish LLC  
1077 Bar Harbor Rd.  
Trenton, ME 04605  
207-667-2250  
rpdane@yahoo.com

ShopLobster, Inc.  
Nick Perreault  
66 Main St., suite 304  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
207-386-9320  
nperreault2029@gmail.com  
www.shoplobster.com

Shucks Maine Lobster  
150 Main St, Suite 4  
Richmond, ME 04357  
207-737-4800  
bryan@shucksmaine.com

Spruce Head Fishermen's Co-op  
275 Island Rd.  
S. Thomaston, ME 04858  
207-594-8029  
shfcoop@gmail.com

Stonington Lobster Coop  
PO Box 87  
Stonington, ME 04681  
207-367-2286  
www.stoningtonlobstercoop.com

Swans Island Fishermens Coop  
PO Box 116  
Swans Island, ME 04685  
207-526-4327  
sicoop@tds.net

### MARINE ENGINES

Cummins  
110 Gibson Rd.  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
207-510-2223  
ryan.oliver@cummins.com  
www.cummins.com

Gillespie Marine, LLC  
Mike Gillespie  
519C Gardiner Rd.  
Wiscasset, ME 04578  
(207) 504-2652  
GillespiemarineLLC@yahoo.com

Power Product Systems  
Joel Rumelhart  
432 Warren Ave  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-797-5950  
info@powerprodsys.com  
www.powerprodsys.com

### REAL ESTATE

RE/MAX Jaret & Cohn  
Camden: 236-9626  
Belfast: 338-4220  
Rockland: 596-0352  
Vinalhaven: 863-2554  
Waldoboro: 832-5219  
info@jaretcohn.com  
www.jaretcohn.com

### REFRIGERATION SERVICES

Applied Refrigeration Services  
7C Commons Ave.  
Windham, ME 04062  
207-893-0145  
info@appliedrefrigeration.com  
www.appliedrefrigeration.com  
*\$250 off new installations.*

### RESTAURANTS

Barnacle Billy's  
50 & 70 Perkins Cove Rd.  
Ogunquit, ME 03907  
207-646-5575  
billy@barnbilly.com  
www.barnbilly.com

Island Lobster Co.  
20 Island Ave  
Peaks Island, ME 04108  
207-956-7488  
ahoy@islandlobsterco.com  
www.islandlobsterco.com

Red's Eats  
Debbie Gagnon  
Water St., Wiscasset, ME 04578  
207-882-6128  
debbiegagnon222@yahoo.com  
www.redseatsmaine.com

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Speed rule continued from page 1

NOAA's assistant administrator for fisheries.

"We can't afford to cause even one more whale death per year, and achieve our conservation goals," said Coit, whose agency is legally bound to protect the whales by federal laws dating to the 1970s. But Coit also acknowledged NOAA's plan to extend speed rules is controversial; more than 90,000 comments poured into the agency during a public comment period that ended Oct. 31, she said.

"It is important to emphasize this is a proposal," Coit told subcommittee members. Meanwhile, the Biden administration this week announced a package of spending goals for ocean issues that will include \$82 million for monitoring the right whale population and finding ways to protect them, said Coit.

Hugelmeyer said NOAA failed to engage the National Marine Manufacturers Association in early discussions about the rules, leaving them "stunned to learn" of plans to extend speed restrictions. In poor weather and sea conditions, mandating 10-knot limits would force boat operators "to risk their vessels and their own lives...at the speed of a bicycle," said Hugelmeyer. NOAA's assessment of likely impacts of the rule on the boating industry is "littered with inaccuracies" including underestimates of how many vessels would be affected, said Hugelmeyer.

Extending speed limits would make the work of U.S. port pilots more dangerous and increase the danger of shipping accidents near East Coast ports, said Clayton Diamond, executive director of the American Pilots Association. Pilots head out to meet ships incoming to U.S. ports in small, speedy boats, and they need speed for safety when coming alongside ships to make pilot transfers, Diamond explained. Making the ladder climb up the side of a container ship is always dangerous; eight pilots have died since 2006 in accidents during vessel transfers, said Diamond.

A 10-knot speed limit "would make it impossible" for running tuna charter fishing trips, said Fred Gamboa, a captain who operates 39-foot and 44-foot center console boats out of Point Pleasant Beach, N.J.

"We have a symbiotic relationship with whales," said Gamboa, a 17-year veteran of the charter industry. Whales help lead fishermen to aggregations of fish and inspire his clients; Gamboa said: "When we see one, it turns a good trip into a great trip." But his captains rely on speed for safety, keeping their boats up on plane and watching the sea surface ahead – not just for whales, but drifting shipping containers and other debris common in the New York Bight. If NOAA imposes a 10-knot speed limit in that region, "it is simply not feasible," said Gamboa. He's calculated that his business could be at risk of losing 70 trips in a year, at a loss of \$140,000.

Gamboa and other industry advocates said they want Congress to delay any rule adoption by NOAA until new measures can be taken to reduce the danger of whale strikes. There is also apprehension that environmental groups could push NOAA to adopt broad speed limit rules on other U.S.

coasts. "There's already a petition to NOAA to expand this to the Gulf of Mexico," said Hugelmeyer. "We expect this to metastasize" with activist groups seeking similar measures on the West Coast, he added.

The group Defenders of Wildlife said extended go-slow zones are one chance to stave off the right whales' decline. "We need seasonal slowdowns to protect right whales in danger zones, just like we have lower speed limits to protect children near schools. Slowing down is the best way to reduce accidental collisions and protect both whales and human safety," said Jane Davenport, senior attorney with Defenders of Wildlife. "NOAA Fisheries' science-based rule is vital to the survival and recovery of this iconic species."



NOAA's proposed speed rules would ensure that all vessels less than 65 feet in length stay at 10 knots when traveling through right whale areas. Photo courtesy of Yahoo.com.

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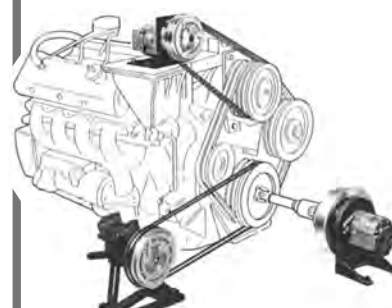
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## TO YOUR HEALTH: *Know how to call for help at sea*

By Melissa Waterman

As we have written about in past issues of *Landings*, knowing what to do when disaster strikes aboard a vessel must be hardwired into not only the captain but everyone else on the boat. While the captain is legally responsible for the crew and the vessel, it is equally important that everybody aboard understand certain basic responses when something unexpected occurs, as it is sure to do eventually.

Among those is how to issue a proper Mayday call.

Once upon a time, before marine radio was widespread, ships at sea used Morse wireless telegraphy to signal distress. During the days of Morse code, S.O.S. was the recognized signal for distress: -- .- -.- --. -.- -. The Morse system was used well into the 20th century, discontinued in this country only in 1995 and worldwide in 1999.

Today "Mayday" is the term used internationally signifying a call for help. It comes from the French "M'aidez," meaning "Help me" but is spelled and pronounced as "Mayday."

It came into use because airplane pilots in the early part of the 20th century had a hard time hearing the sound "S.O.S." over the static of plane radios. A new distress signal had to be found. Frederick Stanley Mockford was the senior radio officer at Croydon Airport in London in 1923; he was asked to come up with an easily heard call. The majority of air traffic at the time was between Croydon and Le Bourget Airport in Paris. Mockford heard French pilots using the term "M'aidez" which sounded to him like "Mayday." Both English and French pilots were familiar with the sound, so Mockford suggested Mayday as the new distress signal for pilots.

Currently three U.S. government agencies, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and two international organizations, the International Telecommunications Union and the International Maritime Organization have each established "marine radio watch keeping" regulations. Regulations on radio watch keeping exist for all boats carrying marine radios.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, any vessel equipped with a VHF marine radio must maintain a watch on channel 16 whenever the radio is not being used to communicate. VHF channel 16 is the International Distress, Safety and Calling channel.

Jason Philbrook at Navroc Marine Electronics in Rockland sees many lobstermen in his business. Those who fish primarily inshore tend to keep their com-

munication equipment simple. "In closer to shore, a lobstering boat should have a VHF radio," he wrote in an email. "The U.S. Coast Guard will ask but has not yet required it be connected to GPS or have internal GPS and be programmed with a MMSI (boat identification) number so distress calls will include position and identifying information." Offshore lobster boats may have two VHF radios and a satellite phone.

Today's marine radios come equipped with a red distress button under a cover that will send position and MMSI number to the Coast Guard, Philbrook said. The Coast Guard has a network of towers along the U.S. coast that will receive these messages. But mariners should be prepared to send a Mayday call on VHF Channel 16.

### To send a MAYDAY call, the Coast Guard gives the following instructions

- On a VHF marine radio, tune the radio to channel 16.
- Say "MAYDAY" three times.
- Say "THIS IS" once.
- Give the name of vessel in distress (three times) and call sign or boat registration number, once.
- Repeat "MAYDAY" and name of vessel, once.
- Give position of vessel by latitude or longitude or by bearing (true or magnetic, state which) and distance to a well-known landmark such as a navigational aid or small island, or in any terms which will assist a responding station in locating the vessel in distress. Include any information on vessel movement such as course, speed and destination.
- State the nature of distress (sinking, fire, illness).
- State the kind of assistance desired.
- Give the number of persons onboard.
- Any other information which might facilitate rescue, such as length or tonnage of vessel, number of persons needing medical attention, color hull, cabin, masks, etc.
- At the end of the message, say the word "OVER."

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## A LOBSTERMAN IS A LOBSTERMAN, REGARDLESS OF GENDER

By MLA staff

What would you call Heather Strout-Thompson of Harrington when she starts her boat's engine at 4 a.m. and heads out of the harbor? You had better call her a lobsterman.

Strout-Thompson, who has lobstered for 38 years, would not have it any other way. "I've never referred to myself as anything but a lobsterman," said Strout-Thompson in a recent *Bangor Daily News* article. "My dad was a lobsterman. My grandfather was a lobsterman. That's what I am, too."

In Maine, a lobsterman is a lobsterman, no matter the gender. Likewise, a sternman is a sternman, period.

As author Emily Burnham points out in her May article, people from outside the state and its lobsteering culture find it hard to understand the use of the word for women who lobster. Ali Farrell, who published *Pretty Rugged: True Stories From Women of the Sea* in 2020, soon heard from readers who thought the word "lobsterman" should apply only to men.

"One hundred percent of the women I talked to called themselves lobstermen, and some people asked me why I used what they said was an inappropriate word," Farrell said. "I had to explain to them that female lobstermen aren't lobsterwomen, or lobster fishers. They are lobstermen."

As of 2021, approximately 15% of lobster licenses in Maine were held by women. A decade ago, that number was less than 5%, according to the Department of

Marine Resources. Many young people, women and men, lobster during their high school years and even through college because they can make good money working hard. Many, like Strout-Thompson, stay with lobsteering as a career.

"I just want to make the same money and have the same opportunities as everybody else," Strout-Thompson said. "I want respect on my own merits, not because I'm a woman or in spite of the fact that I'm a woman. Who cares what I am as long as I do a good job?"

On the water, lobstermen judge each other by time-honored standards: seamanship, fishing ability, confidence on the water, and of course, their boats. What they are called by those outside the fishery is the least of their concerns.

"At the end of the day, I only care about doing a good job. I'm not going to get too worked up over a word," Strout-Thompson said.



Photo courtesy of M. Carpenter for NPR.

## MAINE LOBSTER FESTIVAL LOOKS FOR THE "KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PASSIONATE"

By Melissa Waterman

In April, the board of directors of the Maine Lobster Festival, held each August in Rockland, announced a major change to the 76-year-old annual event. Instead of crowning a Sea Goddess on the first evening of the Festival, a Maine Lobster Festival Delegate will be chosen instead. Young women and men between the ages of 16 and 22 knowledgeable and passionate about the Maine lobster industry are eligible to apply.

For more than seven decades, young women from local towns took part in the annual Sea Goddess contest. They sought sponsors from the many businesses connected to the lobster industry. The young woman chosen Sea Goddess re-

ceived a cash award and represented the Festival and the fishery at numerous public events throughout Maine and New England in the following year.

"Participation [in the Sea Goddess contest] had been down prior to COVID," explained Celia Knight, president of the Festival's board of directors. "We visited high schools throughout the area to have in-depth conversations with students and sent out a survey asking them what they wanted to see in the contest. We heard that they wanted someone who knows and cares about the lobster industry and our community, regardless of gender."

That message fit neatly with the Festival's original goal when it began in 1947. Camden and Rockport businesspeople recognized that soft-shell lobsters, which were the bulk of the local catch in mid-summer, were delicious but difficult to ship at a time when refrigerated trucks were not common. They decided that if they couldn't get the lobsters to consumers, they would bring the consumers to the lobsters. The very first Festival was held in Camden where 10,000 hungry people devoured nearly 12,000 pounds of lobster at open-air tables set up at Camden High School. The next year, the Festival moved to Rockland where over the decades it grew in size and scope.

"The Sea Goddess contest was never a beauty pageant," Knight continued. "It was always about who was the best representative of the Festival and the fishery." The new contest for Maine Lobster Festival Delegate requires contestants to participate in events linked to the industry, including local volunteering and service, attending public speaking and social media workshops, and helping to set up before the Festival opens.

"The Festival is about the lobster industry succeeding and being successful. We want the smartest person [to be the Delegate] and carry that message at public events. I don't care if they are pink or purple!" Knight added. In response to the change, the number of candidates for the contest has more than doubled compared to past years. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$2,000, the runner-up will receive \$1,000.

This year, the Maine Lobster Festival will be accepting donations for the Maine Lobstermen's Association *Save Maine Lobstermen* campaign, which supports the Association's work to combat extreme actions by the federal government to protect right whales.



Still celebrating all thing lobster after 76 years. MLF photo.

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## SEA SAMPLING PROVIDES VITAL LOBSTER FISHERY DATA

By Melissa Waterman

This spring the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) welcomed Kristyn Kleman as its new sea sampling and ventless trap program coordinator. Prior to joining DMR, Kleman was a research associate in the Wahle Laboratory at the University of Maine where she managed the American Lobster Settlement Index (ALSI), a multi-decade database of lobster settlement rates from sites throughout New England and the Maritime provinces. She also coordinated the Lab's deep water settlement sampling program, which was begun several years ago to assess expanding nursery habitat for juvenile lobsters in the Gulf of Maine's deeper water.

"I love working with lobstermen. Any time I spend on the water I learn so much from them," Kleman said.

Before moving to Maine, Kleman spent much of her academic career in, around, or under the water. She received her M.S. in Marine Biology from the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography at Nova University in Florida. She worked as the research coordinator at a non-profit marine science field station in Virginia, becoming involved in oyster aquaculture. As Kleman says with a laugh, "There isn't an animal in the water that I haven't studied."

At DMR she is leading a team of three full-time sea samplers this summer and three additional staff who do sea sampling as well as other related projects.

DMR's sea sampling program has produced crucial data on the composition of Maine's lobster population each year since 1985. Lobstermen volunteer to take DMR samplers aboard their vessels each month. Each sea sampler then checks everything that comes up in a trap. The sea sampler collects general trip information, including final



Kristyn Kleman on the job. DMR photo.

catch weight and price as well as gear characteristics and bait type. Biological information recorded includes lobster carapace length, sex, cull status, v-notch condition (if present), egg development stage, molt status and extent of any shell disease. Being on board the vessel allows the samplers to collect data on lobsters that are tossed back — V-notched females, egg-bearing females, and sublegals. Taken together these data provide regulators with critical information on the Maine lobster population.

What does it take to be a sea sampler? According to Kleman, the key characteristic is an upbeat disposition. "It can be long days, early morning start, poor weather. Not being prone to sea sickness is also a positive," she said. Samplers must pay attention to the details of each lobster, measuring and noting traits of hundreds of lobsters on some of the season's busiest days. "Yes, a positive attitude is huge," Kleman emphasized. During the summer months, sea samplers go out with lobstermen three times each month in each zone. In the winter, samples are taken three times each month in each of NOAA's three statistical areas off the Maine coast.

For Kleman, who is also a runner and avid hiker, the transition from the University of Maine to DMR has been largely tranquil. She enjoys the balance between working with lobstermen and as a scientist. The Gulf of Maine's rapidly changing environment feeds her scientific interest in how oceanographic changes impact the biological communities in the Gulf.

Being out on a lobster boat scrutinizing what's in each trap has its own thrill, however. "On my second sampling trip this year, out of Cutler, I got to see my first calico lobster. I was super excited to see this big healthy lobster come out of the trap!" she said.

SaveMaineLobstermen continued from page 5

"Owning and operating a small business in Maine is difficult and most people don't realize that each licensed lobsterman in Maine is, by law, a small business owner. Maine doesn't have large, corporate owned lobster boats. So, it means a lot to us when other small business owners, like Paul, step up and offer to help us fight burdensome federal regulations that threaten to put all of us out of business," said Welch. "Lobstermen are proud of our long record of conservation and with the support of our friends and community members, we will have the financial resources we need not only to fight the unfair rules but also to protect our lobstering heritage for generations to come."

Finally, a quick update on the fantastic fundraiser hosted at Robinson's Wharf in Southport last March. When all the pennies, dimes, and dollars were counted, this community-supported event raised \$35,462 for the MLA's legal defense fund! Special thanks to Hannah Leeman, Rachel Leeman, the owners and crew at Robinson's, all of the generous sponsors and everyone in the community who donated. We simply could not fight without support like this!

### Upcoming events:

An art exhibit to support the Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance will begin on July 5 at the Brooksville Free Public Library, 1 Town House Road. Artist Sarah Baskin organized the show, which will feature works from nearly 40 artists from the peninsula. Fifty percent of the proceeds from sales at the show will benefit the MLCA while the remaining half will be paid to the artist. An opening reception is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. on July 6.

On Sunday, July 16, MLA board member John Williams and his wife Judy are hosting a #SaveMaineLobstermen informational picnic and fundraiser at Edgewood Farm, 40 Dunham Point Road, in Deer Isle. Lobster rolls and whoopie pies are on the menu. The event is free and open to the public, we just ask that you come with an empty stomach and (if able) an open wallet to support the MLA's mission to preserve Maine's lobstering industry. For more information or to RSVP, email kevin@mainelobstermen.org.

Also on July 16, Geary Brewing Company in Portland is hosting Women on the Water, a celebration of the women of Maine's waterways. Whether you work on the water or the water inspires your artistry, you are invited to join your seafaring sisterhood in an event featuring music, art, comedy, shopping, seafood and more. Of course, there will be plenty of cold Geary's on draught! A portion of the proceeds to benefit MLA. The event is 12-5pm (rain date July 15). FMI call Geary's at 207.878.2337 or visit their Facebook page.

Finally, a group of lobstermen's wives in St. George are organizing "Band of Buoys," a fundraiser to honor the lobstering families around St. George. A buoy tree will be constructed at the corner of Juniper and Main Streets in Tenants Harbor, where buoys from local lobstermen will be displayed just in time for the annual St. George Days celebration. You can "sponsor" a buoy by donating to the MLA. FMI contact bandofbuoys@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or interest in hosting your own fundraising event, reach out directly to Kevin Kelley at kevin@mainelobstermen.org or call 207.967.4555.

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## In the NEWS

### GOULDSBORO LOBSTER FACILITY PURCHASED AT AUCTION

In June, two Schoodic-area businessmen successfully bid in the auction of a defunct seafood processing plant in Gouldsboro. Tim Ring, founder of Ring Paving, and Kevin Barbee of Barbee Construction won the auction for the former sardine cannery with a bid of \$975,000. The winning bid was \$75,000 more than what Maine Fair Trade Lobster paid for the property at auction 11 years ago. Ring, a current partner in K&T Rentals, said that he and Barbee did not have specific plans



*Photo courtesy of the Bangor Daily News.*

for the building but view it as an investment property. After Bumble Bee Foods closed the sardine operation down in 2010, it was revived as a lobster processing plant, first by Live Lobster and then by Maine Fair Trade Lobster. The latest owner prior to the auction was American Aquafarms, which said it wanted to use the plant to process salmon that it planned to farm in Frenchman Bay.

### NOAA GRANTS RIGHT WHALE "TAKE AUTHORIZATION" TO VINEYARD WIND

On June 6, Vineyard Wind began installing the first monopiles for its first-in-the-nation commercial scale offshore wind farm. In 2021, NOAA issued an incidental take authorization valid from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 for construction of the 100-turbine project located 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. A team of ships will work with the heavy lift vessel ORION throughout the summer installing 62 foundations in the wind development area. Vineyard Wind's incidental take authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act allows for Level B "harassment" (which includes acts that have the potential to disturb but not injure) of up to 15 right whales during construction. Commercial fisheries are managed under the MMPA's Marine Mammal Authorization Program for Level A harassment which includes certain types of non-serious injury, serious injury or mortality.

### BLUE CRABS FIND NEW HOMES IN CASCO BAY

Blue crabs — the most valuable fishery in Chesapeake Bay — are showing up in the Gulf of Maine as ocean temperatures rise. Manomet, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization with an office in Brunswick, has been monitoring blue crabs in the Gulf of Maine. "They definitely seem to be increasing in abundance in Maine, and there's some evidence that we have established (year-round) populations," senior scientist Marissa McMahan said. Research from the University of Maine also shows that blue crabs are beginning to populate coastal areas in Maine, particularly in Casco Bay. At the same time the population in Chesapeake Bay has seen record low numbers. The warmer Gulf has made waters previously too cold for the warmth-loving crab hospitable. The Gulf has averaged around 52 degrees F. since 2015 (a nearly three-degree increase from 40 years ago) and is expected to rise to 56.9 F. degrees by 2050.

### WATER TEMPS HIT RECORDS IN 2022 IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Ocean temperatures in Atlantic Canada set record highs again in 2022, according to the latest assessment released by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Results from the annual Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program show surface, intermediate and bottom temperatures were well above normal last year. Fisheries and Oceans uses 45 indices — a combination of multiple indicators — to measure ocean conditions related to temperatures in the Gulf of Maine south of Nova Scotia, the Scotian Shelf, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2022, 43 indices were above normal and 16 were the highest ever recorded, DFO said in its report on oceanographic conditions.

### BIGELOW LAB GETS BIGGER

The Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences is undertaking a \$30 million expansion of its campus in East Boothbay. The new buildings will add needed space for the lab's scientists and broaden its research and teaching capabilities. The planned 25,000-square-foot center for "ocean education and innovation" will increase Bigelow's footprint off Ocean Point Road by more than 40% and include new lab facilities and classrooms. Also planned is a two-story, 300-seat gathering space for programs and public events. The project breaks ground in October, with a target finish date in spring 2025.



*An illustration of the planned expansion.*

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Mike Mayo (207) 542-1879

**25 JUNE**  
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Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288

**1 JULY**  
Moosabec Reach,  
Beals Island/Jonesport  
Roy Fagonde (207) 610-4607

**9 JULY**  
Stonington  
Jeff Eaton (207) 598-0488

**23 JULY**  
Friendship  
Robin Reed (207) 975-9821

**30 JULY**  
Harpwell  
Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104  
Kristina York (207) 449-7571

**12 AUGUST**  
Winter Harbor  
Chris Byers (207) 963-7139

**13 AUGUST**  
Merritt Bracket, Pemaquid  
Brent Fogg (207) 350-7712  
Sheila McLain (207) 677-2100

**19 AUGUST**  
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**20 AUGUST** Portland  
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Robinson's Wharf, Southport  
Jon Johansen (207)-223-8846

All Races:  
Sign-up 8 to 9 AM ; Races Start 10 AM  
Exception: Long Island – Sign up 10 to 11 AM; Start 12 PM.

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# Events Calendar

More details on all of these events can be found online at [www.mainelobstermen.org](http://www.mainelobstermen.org)

## July 5

MLA board of directors meeting, Darby's restaurant, Belfast.

## July 6

Reception for Art Show benefiting the MLCA, 6-8 p.m., Brooksville Free Public Library, through July 20.

## July 16

"Women on the Water" gathering sponsored by Geary Brewing, 2-5 p.m., Geary's Beer Garden, 38 Evergreen Drive, Portland. Portion of proceeds to benefit MLCA

## July 16

"All Hands on Deck: Stonington/Deer Isle," 1:30-4 p.m., Edgewood Farm, Deer Isle. Lobster roll, whoopie pie celebration & fundraiser for MLA LDF. Free admission, donations encouraged. RSVP to [kevin@mainelobstermen.org](mailto:kevin@mainelobstermen.org).

## July 18

NEFMC On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group webinar, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FMI: [https://d23h0vhs26o6d.cloudfront.net/230718\\_On-Demand-GC-WG-Meeting-notice.pdf](https://d23h0vhs26o6d.cloudfront.net/230718_On-Demand-GC-WG-Meeting-notice.pdf).

## July 21-23

Yarmouth Clam Festival, Yarmouth. FMI: [www.clamfestival.com](http://www.clamfestival.com).

## July 27-30

Milbridge "Party like a Lobstar" Days, Milbridge.

## July 31-August 3

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission summer meeting, Arlington, VA.

## August 2-6

Maine Lobster Festival, Rockland.

## August 22

Coastal Fisheries Fanfare: An Evening of Music & Merriment, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, 5-8 p.m. Tickets at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

## August 27

"Music, Masts and Lobster Traps" at the Maine Maritime Museum, Bath. Evening Mallett Brothers concert to benefit *Save Maine Lobstermen* campaign. For concert tickets, <https://mlcalliance.org/events/music-masts-lobster-traps>.

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## FOR THE LOVE OF LOBSTERING

By Melissa Waterman

For some young people, lobstering is a calling not to be challenged. That is the case for 15-year-old Mason Vintinner of Durham.

Vintinner began lobstering with his lobsterman father aboard Different Tectic during the anxious years of the COVID pandemic. Being on the water and working hard appealed to him. He enrolled in the state's 1000-hour apprentice program and got his student license. He is now on the waiting list in Zone F for a permanent license.

This summer he is working with his father and also hauling his own traps from his 18-foot skiff. Come fall he will be a sophomore at Freeport High School, playing soccer and basketball. He's skipping any spring sports because he wants to get ready for the next lobster season. His future as a lobsterman looks a little murky. "I am worried about the lobster industry for my generation. I will always keep my license but might try being a marine patrol officer or perhaps an electrician," Vintinner said.

Still, the pleasure and profit of lobstering holds a deep appeal for the busy young man. He wrote a short poem about the fishery for his freshman literacy class this spring.

### Lobstering

There are fast boats;  
There are slow boats;  
There are small boats;  
There are family boats;  
There are work boats:  
Lobstermen's boats.  
The government is after the  
lobstermen,  
They say lobster gear kills right  
whales.  
The government is trying to get rid  
of lobstermen.  
Lobstermen chose this job,  
Lobstermen are a part of the  
ecosystem.

We fight to provide;  
We work to provide.  
Why does the government not get it?  
We try to provide.  
Not for the enjoyment on the water,  
Not for just having a boat,  
Not for just to make money.  
Lobstermen provide for their  
families;  
For the food market;  
To pass down boats and gear to kids  
or grandkids.  
That's lobstermen.  
That's what is the best part.



Dave and Mason Vintinner.

Virginia Oliver has been lobstering for over 95 years. As Maine's oldest active lobsterman, Oliver has gained a good deal of attention recently, particularly at her 103rd birthday celebration in June. Her comment then: "What's all the fuss about?"

Oliver lives in Rockland next door to the house where she was born and later her four children were born. Her father was a lobster dealer and owned a general store on The Neck, linked at low tide to larger Andrews Island in the Muscle Ridge chain off South Thomaston. Her father did many things, including running herring weirs using materials he made on the island. Oliver helped her father at the weirs, started lobstering with her older brother, and began driving her first boat at the age of eight. With no school nearby, Oliver moved back to the mainland to begin grade school, living with her older sister, aunts, and grandfather in their Rockland house.

Oliver married her husband Bill at 17, a year after her mother died. Bill Oliver was a lobsterman, who grew up on the same street in Rockland. As the family grew, Oliver worked at local land-based jobs. She worked nights in a sardine factory, then took a job at the local printing plant. She worked there for nearly 19 long years before she decided she had had enough. One morning she quit, and that evening told Bill she wanted to go lobstering with him. The next day, she did.

After Bill passed away in 2006, Oliver began sterning with her son Max aboard her late husband's boat Virginia. The two fish from the Spruce Head Fishermen's Co-op, heading out about three days each week through September. Her son pulls the traps (they each have their own, plus a tank with a partition to keep their hauls separated). His mother prepares bait and bands and measures the lobsters.

Oliver is out on the water for her 95th year and shows no signs of stopping. "You have to keep moving," she said in a recent *Washington Post* interview. "I intend to do this until I die."



Virginia Oliver starts her season again. Photo courtesy ABC News.

## IMAGES OF FISHERMEN AND FISHING

*By Melissa Waterman*

Sam Murfitt of South Thomaston started taking photographs when he was 14. Now 70, he spent his career as a commercial photographer largely focused on New England's fishing industry. "If I don't take photos I build boats," Murfitt said.

His photos were published in *Commercial Fishing News*, *Fishermen's Voice* and many other fishing-related publications. About 18 years ago he began documenting New England's working waterfronts and the fishermen found on them, families like the Osgoods of Vinalhaven and the Beals of Beals Island and Jonesport. "Places like Salem and Gloucester, they are no longer really working waterfront," Murfitt said. "And the same thing's happening here."

On August 6, the Penobscot Marine Museum will open a new exhibit of his photographs, "Sam Murfitt and Maine's Working Waterfronts."



Wayne, Calvin Jr., and Jeremy Beal.



Isaac Beal.



Fish lumpers at the Portland Fish Exchange.



Jacob Beal.

# Congratulations

**Maine Lobstermen's Association on your win in the U.S. Court of Appeals. This is a victory for your association, all of the hard-working lobstermen and women, and Maine's tourism industry!**



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